(c) whether there is any proposal to encourage the landless farmers and the persons belonging to backward and tribal areas of the State by putting the wasteland to be used by them; and

(d) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELAND DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAM SINGH): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Upliftment of Villages Facing Absolute Poverty

2815. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages in the country which arc facing absolute poverty and what is the estimated number of families in these poverty-stricken villages. State-wise;

(b) the programmes have been initiated by Government so far for the upliftment of these villages in the country;

(c) what is the role of the Central Government in tackling the rural poverty and in monitoring the progress in the implementation of the programmes;

(d) whether any latest review with regard to the deficiencies and impediments in the implementation of the programmes to tackle the rural poverty has been made by Government; and

(c) if so, what arc the details thereof and what strategy is contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) Village-wise details on absolute poverty and estimated number of poor families arc not maintained. Based on the 43rd Round of NSS (1987-88), 33.4% persons in the rural areas were below the poverty line. A Statement giving number and percentage of population below the poverty line during 1987-88, State-wise, is enclosed. *(See* below).

(b) and (c) For upliftment of rural poor, Government has implemented two major poverty alleviation programmes namely, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY).

IRDP aims to provide self-employment to a target group of beneficiaries below the poverty line. Under this programme, assistance to the beneficiaries is given for purchase of productive assets and inputs for income generating activities, whereas JRY aims to provide additional gainful employment to the rural poor. These programmes are constantly reviewed by the Centre through periodical reports, field visits, work-shops and seminars, Centre and State level Coordination Committees and through Concurrent Evaluation studies to identify deficiencies, if any, in their implementation. Besides, for effective monitoring of these programmes, the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment has also introduced an Area Officers' Scheme. Under this scheme, Officers of the Ministry and from other selected departments are drafted to review the performance of these programmes with special reference to quality, timeliness and proper achievement of physical and financial targets.

(d) and (c) Based on periodical review, some of the deficiencies observed in the IRDP Programmes were (i) low level of per family investment, (ii) deficiencies in making investment projects bankable, (iii) inadequate skills in managing credit based assets by poor families, (iv) low level rate of recovery from the beneficiaries. The strategies adopted to overcome these deficiencies are (a) Raising the overall level of investment per family to Rs. 12,000 (b) improvement

of procedures for selection of beneficiaries with particular emphasis on involvement of gram sabha, (c) strengthening of technical inputs for preparation of projects, (d) Extension of the coverage of the scheme of family credit plan to more districts in the country, (c) Liberalisation of the norms for infrastructural development, (0 Raising the amount of stipend to TRYSEM beneficiaries and (g) Organising recovery camps to improve the rate of recovery of loans. As regards JRY, deficienoics identified have been: (i) Some of the Elected Heads of Panchayat were net trained tor implementation of JRY, (ii) Annual action plans were not discussed in the gram sabha meetings in some of the States, (iii) Less utilisation of locally available materia! in construction works and (iv) low share of women in employment generation. The various deficiencies as pointed out above have been brought to the notice of the respective State Governments to take corrective measures for better and effective implementation of JRY. In addition, several new initiatives and strategics have been adopted in the recent past which include (i) introduction of Intensified JRY in 120 backward districts in the country, (ii) Launching of Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) in 2,443 blocks in backward districts and States in India, (iii) Substantial step up in the outlays for rural employment programmes during the 8th plan, (iv) reinvigorating the Panchayat Raj Institutions at different levels so as to increase the peoples participation and involvement in the implementation of the programmes.

The total allocation for Rural Development has been substantially stepped upto Rs. 30,000 crores during the 8th plan compared to an expenditure of about Rs. 10,955 crores in the 7th plan and greater emphasis is laid on poverty alleviation programmes. During the 8th plan period, the Government strategy is to utilise the enhanced allocations of rural development on building up of rural infrastructure such as all weather roads in tribal, hill and desert areas, minor irrigation works and water harvesting structures, school buildings, primary health centre etc. This strategy, it is hoped, will help in providing more sustained employment to rural people and development of villages.

Statement

Number and Percentage of Population in rural areas below the Poverty line based on 43rd round of NSS (1987-88)

SI. No.	State/UT	Rural	
		No. of Persons	%
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	153.1	33.8
2.	Assam	50.4	24.5
3.	Bihar	300.3	42.7
4.	Gujarat	56.2	21.2
5.	Haryana	13.5	11.7
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4.4	9.7
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	8.4	15.5
8.	Karnataka	102.8	35.9
9.	Kerala	37.4	16.4

1	2	3	4
10.	Madhya Pradesh	194.0	41.5
11.	Maharashtra	166.9	36.7
12.	Manipur	NA	NA
13.	Meghalaya	NA	NA
14.	Orissa	124.2	48.3
15.	Punjab	9.6	7.2
16.	Rajasthan	80.6	26.0
17.	Tamil Nadu	138.4	39..5
18.	Tripura	NA	NA
19.	Uttar Pradesh	373.1	37.2
20.	West Bengal	137.2	30.3
21.	Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and All UTs.	9.3'	11.3*
	ALL INDIA	1959.7	33.4

*Includes Manipur, Mcghalaya and Tripura also.

Achievements of IRDP

2816. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the achievement so far of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in—

(i) enabling the rural area families to cross the poverty line;

(ii) developing the farm sector;

(iii) creating self-employment potential;

(b) what arc the deficiencies and impediments in fulfilling the IRDP objectives;

(c) what arc the names of the State Governments which have shown unsatisfactory performance in the implementation of the IRDP programmes and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the manner in which government propose to move in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Based on findings of Evaluation studies by and large, the Integrated Rural Development Programme has been found to be useful in enabling families to cross the poverty line, in developing the farm sector and in creating self employment potential.

(i) According to the Concurrent Evaluation Survey (1989) old beneficiaries had crossed the poverty line of Rs. 6,400 per annum in 28% cases at the national level.

(ii) During 1993-94, 13.8 lakh families were assisted in primary sector/ farm sector activities consisting of irrigation, land development, milch cattle and others.

(iii) A total of 25.4 lakh families were assisted at the all India level in 1993-94 for self employment ventures.